

WHAT WE CLAIM IS

1. A clamping device for work pieces, of the type comprising:

- a box-shaped body having a longitudinal axis;

5 - at least one clamping member which partially protrudes from an aperture at the front end of the box-shaped body, said clamping member having fore and rear edges extending in the longitudinal direction of the box-shaped body; said clamping member being supported  
10 to perform an rocking movement and a sliding movement between a forward non-operative position and a backward operative position in which it restrains a work piece;  
and

15 - control means operatively connected to the clamping member,

sealing means for preventing the infiltration of dirt through the front end of the box-shaped body, said sealing means comprising:

20 - a closing plate secured to the fore end of the box-shaped body, said closing plate having an elongated aperture for protrusion of the clamping member, said aperture having first and second cross edges;

25 - said clamping member having the front edge provided with a shaped profile designed to slide in contact with one of said cross edges of the elongated

aperture in the closing plate;

- a tiltably supported closing member for said aperture, said closing member being provided with a scraping head extending from the rear longitudinal edge 5 of the clamping member, towards and beyond the other one of said cross edges; and

- biasing spring means urging said closing member to maintain the scraping head constantly in contact with the rear edge of the clamping member.

10 2. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein said closing member comprises an L-shaped lever having a first arm pivoted to the box-shaped body, and a second arm which extends in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the box-shaped body, said second 15 arm ending with said scraping head.

3. A clamping device according to claim 2, wherein the spring means comprise a spring element disposed between the first arm of the closing member and a seat in the box-shaped body.

20 4. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the elongated aperture in the closing plate, is provided with sharped cross edges.

25 5. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the closing member is provided with a T-shaped scraping head having an upper rounded surface sliding

along a corresponding arched surface at the bottom of the closing plate.

6. A clamping device according to claim 2, wherein the pivot point to the box-shaped body of the 5 closing member, defines a stop for the clamping member in its backward position.

7. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the clamping member is supported by an articulated lever system, operatively connected to said 10 control means.

8. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the articulated lever system is in the form of an articulated quadrilateral system comprising first and second connecting links, pivotally supported by the 15 box-shaped body.

9. A clamping device according to claim 8, wherein the closing member is pivoted rearwardly to the articulated quadrilateral system, with respect to the longitudinal axis of the box-shaped body.

20 10. A clamping device according to claim 8, wherein the closing member is pivoted coaxially to one of said connecting links, the scraping head of said closing member being maintained in contact with the rear edge of the clamping member by a tensioning spring 25 connected between the scraping head and the aforesaid

one connecting link.

11. A clamping device according to claim 10,  
comprising a stop element for the clamping member in  
its backward position.

5       12. A clamping device according to claim 1,  
comprising first and second opposite clamping members,  
each having a fore longitudinal edge designed to slide  
in contact with a respective cross edge of the  
elongated aperture in the closing plate, and a rear  
10 longitudinal edge; and

a closing member coplanary arranged to each  
clamping member, each closing member having a scraping  
head and spring means to urge said scraping head  
against the rear edge of the respective clamping  
15 member.